of their regional priorities. The States are, therefore, free to allocate funds to the various programmes included in their Work Plans according to their priorities within the ceiling of funds allocated to them.

Saving cum Relief Scheme

1957 SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh have requested for sanction of National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen Saving-cum-Relief Scheme for the year 2005-06, with a total outlay of Rs. 40.72 lakhs;

(b) if so, whether Government taken any action in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government had been requested to release its share of Rs. 20.36 lakhs for this Scheme;

(f) if so, whether the Central Government would assure of releasing it at the earliest; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN); (a) to (g) The Centrally Sponsored National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen has saving-cum-relief as one of its component. The assistance extended under this component is shared by the Central and State Government on 50:50 basis. On receipt of proposal from the Government of Andhra Pradesh to cover 6786 fishermen under saving-cum-relief component of the scheme involving total financial implication of Rs. 40.72 lakh, Central share of Rs. 20.36 lakh has been provided to the State in October 2005. Besides, a sum of Rs. 5.0 lakh has been provided to the State in February 2006 to cover 1666 additional fishermen under this component.